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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

WHEN Mark Twain wrote his

indiscreet story of the "Great Beef

Contract," he was not aware that

he was writing history in jest and

in advance—as to the beef. In

Mark Twain's story the beef pur-

sues the army in accordance with

a contract to be fresh, and catches

up with it under circumstances

that leave with the party of the se-

cond part the obligation of filling

its contract. In the modern in-

stances, as furnished by Gen. Miles'

testimony, the beef pursued the

army successfully indeed, but ar-

rived at the point of delivery in a

condition that army could not take

of its end of the contract and eat

it.

General Miles speaks of it as

"embalmed beef." That may be

an euphemistic description, but it

is suggestive in itself, and when

the general said, "it was not fit for

female employees.

The order, which has been issued

to that effect, states that two

hundred women stenographers and

clerks will be affected and they

will all have to go except the very

small number whose long service

makes their retention a matter of

justice. The order embraces the

entire Northwestern system, and

has created unbounded consterna-

tion along the line.

While the officers of the railroad

company refuse to discuss the reason

for this step, it is taken for

granted that they have found the

employment of women even though

cheaper, to be unprofitable in the

long run. Women can never quali-

fy themselves to spend a lifetime

at any one business, as they are

liable at any time to get married,

no matter how urgently their ser-

vices be needed. In all large in-

stitutions, employees naturally be-

come the expert custodians of the

business of their employers and

their continued service is neces-

sary.

All of this leads back to the old

conclusion, which modern apostles

of advancement are apt to forget,

that men have been made by nature

the wage earners of the world, and

that it is their duty to take care of

mothers, wives and sisters. While

it is desirable that lines of work

should be opened for women who

have cares depending upon them,

yet it is no public policy to encour-

age the employment of women to

the displacement of men. It is the

duty of every man to work, as it

is the duty of every man to have a

wife, and thus provide for many of

those who are now at work. It is

all very well to talk about impos-

sible conditions and demoralize

with anticipations which can never

be realized; but this is only one

place around which the hopes and

ambitions of every man should cen-

ter—the fireside—and sitting by it

aiding him in that way in which

only a wife can aid a husband,

should be the partner of his joys

and his sorrows. If a man and

woman thus united will do their

full duty there will be quite as

much as the man can do to meet

the outside world and earn the liv-

ing, while the task of keeping the

home in order will furnish the ut-

most labor and pleasure of which

woman is capable.—Enterprise.

KANSAS barbers putting the

charge for hair cuts at five cents

is in line with the economic fact

that very big crops are always apt

to run down prices.

THOUGH the last shots have been

fired some time since the last re-

ports of the war will hardly be

heard till these various investiga-

tions come to an end.

SOME NEW LIGHT.

The Conflict of Army and Navy at Santiago

New light is thrown on the

events of the war by a complete

file at the war department of the

to go inside the harbor, the war

department even contemplated

having the army clear the way for

the navy, as shown by this amus-

ing dispatch from Adjutant Gen-

eral Corbin to General Shafter:

"Your telegram regarding the

navy entering Santiago harbor, I

received and your action thorough-

ly approved. The secretary of war

suggests that if the navy will not

undertake to break through, take

a transport, cover the pilot house

in most exposed points with baled

hay, attach an anchor to a tow-line,

and, if possible, grapple the tor-

pedo cables, and call for volunteers

from the army—not large num-

bers—to run into the harbor, thus

making a way for the navy. Be-

fore acting, telegraph what you

think of it. One thing is certain;

that is, the navy must get into the

harbor and must save the lives of

our brave men that will be sacri-

ficed if we assault the enemy in

his entrenchments without aid.

This is strictly confidential to you."

What General Shafter thought

of running a ship with a deck

loaded with inflammable baled

hay, past fortifications armed with

rapid-fire guns does not appear, but

he did not carry out the sug-

gestion. Secretary Alger wrote a

letter to Secretary Long, asking

him to "order the fleet off Santi-

ago to at once force its way into

the bay." Secretary Long's reply

was nothing more than a curt acknow-

ledgment of the receipt of Secretary

Alger's letter, and Admiral Samp-

son's orders to avoid having his

ships destroyed by mines were not

changed.

After the surrender of the city

General Shafter telegraphed for

instructions as to the vessels in

the harbor, saying that the navy

was disposed to take them. Sec-

retary Alger replied:

"Be sure to take immediate pos-

session of all ships and boats in

harbor. They belong to the

army."

While supporting General Shafter

as against Admiral Sampson

there was a period before the sur-

render when the war department

feared General Shafter might make

the terms of surrender too favor-

able to the Spanish, and this dis-

patch was sent to him by Adjutant

General Corbin:

"The president and secretary of

war are becoming impatient with

parley. Any arrangement that al-

lows the enemy to take their arms

back as well as be abandoned once

for all, as it will not be approved.

The way to surrender is to sur-

render, and this should be fully

impressed on General Toral. I

send this as your friend and com-

rade, and not by authority, but

you can be guided by it with entire

safety."

This advice was not followed, as

the terms of surrender indicate,

for Shafter granted further delay,

All About Southern California.

The Los Angeles Times will

issue, on January 1, its Midwinter

number for 1899. The special

issues of the Times have become

decided features of the year in

Southern California. They are

looked forward to by thousands of

readers, not only in this section

but throughout the United States,

and even in foreign countries.

The publishers announce that

the Midwinter Number of The

Times will be, in every respect,

the most important and attractive

of the numerous special numbers

that have been issued from that

office during the past dozen years,

and worthy of the peerless section

whose resources, attractions and

progress it will portray.

The issue will be in the popular

magazine form, wire stitched, with

a beautiful lithographed cover,

and will contain scores of hand-

some illustrations. The number

will contain a vast amount of in-

teresting and reliable matter con-

cerning this Land of Sunshine, in

readable, attractive form.

There will be a comprehensive

survey of the progress and present

condition of the seven southern

counties. Special attention will

be devoted to the picturesque out-

door life of Southern California,

which has been the chief charm for

the easterner who has been brought

up in less favored sections. The

attractions of our seaside resorts

will be graphically set forth.

Due space will be allotted to the

material side of life in Southern

California. Experts will describe

the land and its fruits, the hor-

ticultural, agricultural, live-stock,

dairy and other rural interests.

Special attention will be devoted

to the question of irrigation, which

is now of such great importance to

Southern California.

Following are some of the lead-

ing features:

Life in the Open Air—The

Mountain Trails of California; Ar-

ound the Camp Fire; With Shot

gun and rifle; with rod and reel;

ocean and stream fishing. By the

sad sea waves—seaside resorts

Winter sports—golf, tennis, racing

etc. A day's sport—From roses

to snow. How things grow—

wonderful fruits, flowers and ve-

getables. Irrigation in Southern

California—An exhaustive article

on our present and possible water

supply. Citrus Fruits—Raising

and marketing the orange and

lemon. Deciduous fruits—T. E.

olive, the vine. Nuts to crack.

Live stock. General Agriculture.

Market prices in midwinter. A

California farm and home—A com-

petence on twenty acres. Petr-

ium for fuel, mining in the South-

west. Manufacturing and com-

merce. Business men's organiza-

tion. Our elements of greatness—

San Pedro Harbor, Nicaragua canal,

Climate and Sanitary conditions.